(d) The State Government has sought Central assistance of Rs. 903.45 crore. Entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2001-02 amounting to Rs. 58.72 crore has been released to the State besides 1 lakh MTs of foodgrains free of cost under Food for Work Programme. No decision for assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund, if any, has yet been taken. Distribution of relief at the ground level is the responsibility of the State Government.

Inclusion of farmers in MSP fixation by CACP

3520. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Agriculture has set up a regular Commission of Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP);

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the Commission has decided to include farmers in fixation of Minimum Support Price; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the criteria for selection of farmers for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The Agricultural Price Commission (APC) was set up in January, 1965 to provide advice on continuing basis, on agricultural price policy and price structure, in the context of the need to raise the agricultural production and give relief to the consumer. The Commission was made a permanent body in May, 1970 and later on in Ma[r]ch, 1985 it was renamed as Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

(b) and (c) The present set up of CACP comprises seven members including a Chairman, two Members (Official), three members (Non-Official) and a Member Secretary. The Non-Official Members are non-Government persons and normally, eminent farmers with understanding of agricultural production and consumer problems are appointed to these posts. The appointment to the posts of member (Non-Official) in the CACP is made for a period of three years on contract basis.